

## ***FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** December 10, 2015

**Agenda Item:** 2016-2017 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons and HD Boundaries

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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### **Background**

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing (2015) structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

FWP proposes two minor changes for the 2016 and 2017 mountain lion season, both in the Gallatin Valley, Hunting District 309: 1) allow fall season without dogs to extend from Sept. 5 through Nov. 30, and 2) allow Resident Hound Training Licenses in the hunting district. All other aspects of the 2015 season structure are to remain in place. These changes are referenced in the Mountain Lion Master List for the December meeting.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

Mountain lion season comments were received during scoping and included interest in liberalized harvest, expanded hunting opportunities, confusion in the regulations. In addition to public comment at the Dec. 10 commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 22, 2016. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb.11, 2016 commission meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2015 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

Rationale for individual proposals is included in commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec.10 commission meeting.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the commission adopt for public comment the 2016 and 2017 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP.